

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 9, 11-21, and 23-28 are currently active in this case. Claims 4, 6, 8-9, 11, 14, 16, and 19 have been amended, and Claim 22 has been canceled by way of the present amendment. All amendments are supported by the specification as originally submitted and no new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the courtesy of an interview granted by Examiner Tse, during which the substantive amendments provided herein were discussed and agreed to be allowable. Applicants have made additional amendments for the sake of added clarity.

Based on the amended claims and previous allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 6, 8, 17, and 23, are patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, Applicants further respectfully submit that the dependent claims are also patentable.

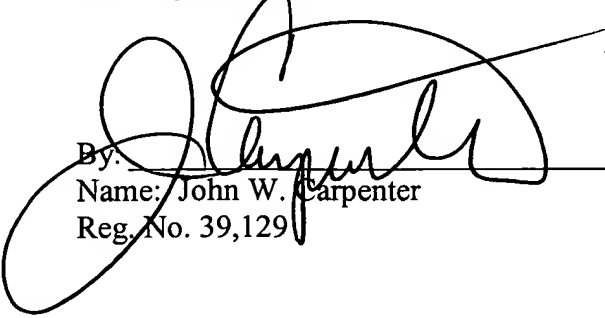
Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 15, 2007

REED SMITH LLP

Two Embarcadero Center, Suite 2000
P.O. Box 7936
San Francisco, CA 94120-7936
Direct Dial: (415) 659-5927
Facsimile: (415) 391-8269

By: 
Name: John W. Carpenter
Reg. No. 39,129